

# Online Safety Meeting

## Aggressive Driving



**W**hat costs society \$44,193 a minute?

*For the answer, check your speedometer as you drive home! Exceeding the posted limit or driving too fast for conditions is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. Speed is a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. Speed-related crashes cost society more than \$23 billion a year.*

### What is Aggressive Driving?

Speeding, driving too fast for conditions, erratic lane changes, failure to yield right of way, following too close and tailgating are all types of aggressive driving. In 2006, these types of behaviors contributed to 54 percent of all the traffic collisions in Idaho and 43 percent of the resulting fatalities.

### Determine if you are an Aggressive Driver

Do you:

- **Express Frustration.** Taking out your frustrations on your fellow motorists can lead to violence or a crash.

- **Fail to Pay Attention when Driving.** Reading, eating, drinking as well as talking or texting on the phone is a major cause of roadway crashes.
- **Tailgate.** This is a major cause of crashes that can result in deaths or serious injuries.
- **Make Frequent Lane Changes.** If you whip in and out of lanes to advance ahead, you are a danger to other motorists.
- **Run Red Lights.** Entering an intersection on a yellow light increases the chance of an accident. Also remember that flashing red lights should be treated as a stop sign.
- **Speed.** Going faster than the posted speed limit, being a "road racer," and going too fast for conditions are some examples of speeding.

### Prevent Aggressive Driving

Always plan ahead. Allow yourself extra time.

- **Concentrate.** Don't allow yourself to become distracted by talking or texting on your cellular phone, eating, drinking or putting on makeup.
- **Relax.** Tune the radio to your favorite music before you begin to drive. Music

can calm your nerves and help you to enjoy your time in the car.

- **Drive the Posted Speed Limit.** Fewer crashes occur when vehicles are traveling at or about the same speed.
- **Identify Alternate Routes.** Try mapping out an alternate route. Even if it looks longer on paper, you may find it is less congested.
- **Use Public Transportation or the INL Bus and Shuttle System.** Public transportation and the INL Bus/Shuttle System can give you some relief from life behind the wheel.
- **Just be Late.** If you're running behind schedule, just be late. To arrive safely is better than not arriving at all.

### Consider these Speed-Related Facts

- On average, 1,000 Americans are killed every month in speed-related crashes.
- The probability of death, disfigurement, or debilitating injury grows with higher speed at impact. Such consequences double for every 10 mph over 50 mph that a vehicle travels.

### Youth and Speeding

- Of all drivers aged 15-24 years of age involved in fatal crashes, 32 percent were speeding.

- Of drivers under age 21 involved in fatal crashes, 38 percent of male and 24 percent of female drivers were speeding.

### Economic and Environmental Costs of Speeding

- Fuel consumption increases steadily above 45 mph with passenger cars and light trucks. These vehicles use approximately 50 percent more fuel traveling at 75 mph than they do at 55 mph.
- The economic costs involving aggressive driving can be as high as \$875.9 million.

Drivers need to remember that there is a reason for posted speed limits. The roadways can be a dangerous place. The speed limits and the rules of the road are designed to protect everyone – drivers, passengers, pedestrians – everyone! Be a courteous, conscientious driver. Everyone has the power to set an example, and this will help make our roadways safer.

*Aggressive Driving. Idaho Transportation Department. Retrieved April 1, 2008 from: [itd.idaho.gov/ohs](http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs)*

*Aggressive Driving. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Retrieved April 1, 2008 from [nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.67eecd05574f18227983419cdba046a0/](http://nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.67eecd05574f18227983419cdba046a0/)*